

Corrections and Law Enforcement

The following represents the significant funding issues included in the 2006 Budget Act for various public safety departments.

Enhancing Public Safety

This Administration is strongly committed to protecting the safety of the public and has demonstrated this commitment by providing additional resources for state and local law enforcement agencies. The Budget includes an additional \$196 million to support various law enforcement efforts, including those discussed below.

Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grants

The Budget includes \$45 million to award competitive grants for the implementation and assessment of multi-agency projects designed to curb recidivism among mentally ill offenders. In the past, over \$100 million General Fund has been invested in this program. Based on evaluations conducted by the Corrections Standards Authority, the program has significantly reduced the number of mentally ill inmates in jails and improved their success rate once released from custody.

Standards and Training for Local Correctional Staff

The Budget reflects \$19.5 million to offset the costs of training local sheriffs' deputies and probation officers who work in jails and juvenile halls. This funding will improve the level of training and address inconsistencies among county training programs.

Booking Fees Reimbursements

The Budget includes \$35 million to reimburse the fees that local law enforcement agencies paid to book arrestees into county jails in 2005-06. Cities will continue to pay booking fees in 2006-07. Beginning in 2007-08, counties are eligible for \$35 million per year in state funding to replace the booking fees they charged to local law enforcement agencies in 2006-07. In subsequent years, if less than the full \$35 million is included in the state Budget, counties may charge booking fees proportionate to the amount of funding that is not provided.

Beginning in 2007-08, whenever the Budget provides funding in lieu of booking fees, counties and cities with jails will also be allowed to charge a “jail access fee” to other law enforcement agencies. This fee may only be charged on a law enforcement agency’s bookings for infractions and specified types of misdemeanors that exceed the agency’s average number of bookings for those crimes over the preceding three years. It is anticipated that discussions amongst the cities, counties, sheriffs and police chiefs will continue to further refine the funding for the booking process and local jails.

Citizens’ Options for Public Safety/Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act

The Budget provides \$238 million (\$119 million for the Citizens’ Options for Public Safety (COPS) and \$119 for the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)), which reflects an increase of \$38 million compared to the 2005 Budget Act level. With respect to COPS, these resources will fund additional police officers and sheriffs deputies, as well as support for jail operations and district attorneys. The JJCPA funding will expand community-based programs that have proven effective in reducing crime and delinquency among at-risk youth and juvenile offenders.

Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement Teams

Under existing law, local agencies have established regional Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) teams throughout the state. The mission of these teams is to reduce violent sexual assault offenses through proactive surveillance and arrest of habitual sexual offenders. The Budget reflects a setaside of \$6 million to fund pending legislation to support the activities of SAFE teams statewide.

California Multijurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Team Program

The California Multijurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Team (CAL-MMET) Program currently works in conjunction with the federally funded Central Valley High Intensity

Drug Trafficking Area program to intensify the current methamphetamine eradication efforts of participating law enforcement agencies by providing additional resources for investigators and prosecutors specializing in methamphetamine offenses, as well as support staff, equipment, training, and facilities. The Budget strengthens methamphetamine eradication across the state by providing an additional \$20 million for allocation on a regional basis.

Vertical Prosecution

The Budget includes \$16.2 million to fund vertical prosecution units to dedicate specialized prosecutors, investigators, and/or victims advocates to follow specific heinous cases such as child and elder abuse, rape, and stalking through the entire judicial process. This funding level reflects an additional \$8 million to increase the state's support for vertical prosecution units.

Gang Suppression Enforcement Teams

The Budget reflects an increase of \$6.5 million to allow the Department of Justice (DOJ) to add four new Gang Suppression Enforcement Teams (GSETs), on a two-year limited-term basis, to the one team already in place. These teams provide a dedicated force with specialized knowledge of gang activities across multiple jurisdictions.

California Methamphetamine Strategy Program

The Budget provides \$6 million to create three new teams within the DOJ to augment the three California Methamphetamine Strategy (CALMS) Program teams currently in place. These teams have specialized training which, coupled with multijurisdictional law enforcement partnerships, uniquely qualify them to coordinate investigations and lab seizures.

Special Crimes Unit

The Budget provides \$1.3 million to increase investigation activities within the DOJ Special Crimes Unit to aggressively investigate and prosecute individuals and businesses that participate in complex financial and identity theft crimes. The DOJ currently has \$2.2 million to carry out these investigations.

Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Recidivism Reduction Strategies

The Administration is committed to improve public safety through the implementation of expanded evidence-based programs that improve public safety and reduce victimization by reducing recidivism and preparing inmates to transition back into the community. The Budget includes \$52.8 million for inmate education programs, community partnerships,

parolee services, institutions rehabilitative and treatment programs, and research and support services. This funding represents a comprehensive approach to inmate and parolee programming by providing program enhancements and community services to both male and female inmates, and parolees. However, this is only the initial effort of an ongoing plan to provide rehabilitative programs to inmates and parolees, as the Department is exploring additional opportunities for program expansion.

Juvenile Justice Community Reentry Challenge Grant Program

The Budget includes \$10 million to establish the Juvenile Justice Community Reentry Challenge Grant Program. This program will award grants, on a competitive basis, to counties and non-profit organizations to provide a variety of services to juvenile parolees. The types of services that may be provided include transitional housing, occupational training and job placement, substance abuse treatment, life skills counseling, and education. The goal of this program is to improve the performance and cost-effectiveness of post-custodial reentry supervision of juvenile parolees, reduce recidivism rates of juvenile offenders, and pilot innovative reentry programs consistent with the Division of Juvenile Justice's focus on a rehabilitative treatment model in the state's juvenile facilities.

Global Positioning System Expansion

The Budget includes \$5.1 million to add 500 Global Positioning System (GPS) devices to track and monitor the parolees who pose the highest risk to public safety. This is part of a four-year plan to add 2,000 GPS units (500 units per year), bringing the total number of GPS units available for parolee monitoring up to 2,500 by 2009-10. Additionally, the caseload for parole agents supervising these offenders will be reduced from 40:1 to 20:1, consistent with caseloads used by other states for similar parolees. Increasing the number of parolees tracked by GPS and reducing the caseload for parole agents will increase public safety by reducing victimization.

District Attorney Representation at Parole Revocation Hearings

Currently, only parolees have legal representation at a parole revocation hearing. To address this inequity, the Department will implement a program to provide legal representation at parole revocation hearings where a witness has been subpoenaed to testify on behalf of the state. This program will enable District Attorneys to provide representation for witnesses of parolee crimes consistent with the representation provided for parolees.